

A NEW KRAIT FROM SIND (*BUNGARUS SINDANUS*).

BY G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

*(With a Plate.)**(Read before the Bombay Natural History Society on 18th March, 1897.)*

A short time after the publication of the Reptiles of the "Fauna of India," Mr. Blanford brought me a "krait" from Umarkot, Sind, received from Mr. H. E. Watson, which differed from *Bungarus cceruleus* in the number of scale-rows (17) and of ventral shields (237). Although both Mr. Blanford and I suspected at the time that the specimen might prove the type of a new species, we agreed that, considering its close affinity to *B. cceruleus*, it would be prudent to wait for further specimens which we were in hopes Mr. Watson would be able to procure. Owing to the death of this gentleman, no more was heard of the snake, the unique specimen of which was provisionally referred to *B. cceruleus*. I have now received from the Bombay Natural History Society two more specimens, obtained by Mr. L. J. Mountford at Sukkur, Sind, which remove my hesitation, and I proposed to designate the new "krait" as

## BUNGARUS SINDANUS, sp. n.

Eye somewhat larger than in *B. cceruleus*, with vertically oval pupil. Rostral broader than deep, the portion visible from above measuring one-third to two-fifths its distance from the frontal; internasals about half as long as the præfrontals; frontal one and a half to one and two-thirds as long as broad, as long as or slightly shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, much shorter than the paristal; one præ- and two postoculars; temporals 1+2; seven upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye; three or four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin shields, which are as long as the posterior. Scales in 17 or 19 rows, vertibrals strongly enlarged, but none broader than long. Ventrals 220—237; anal entire; subcaudals 49—52, single or a few of the hindermost in pairs. Black above, white below; transverse series of white spots on the body forming interrupted cross-bands same as often present in *B. cceruleus*; rostral, upper labials, anterior nasal and præocular, white.

Total length 1,300; tail 150 millimetres.

Mr. Mountford observes:—

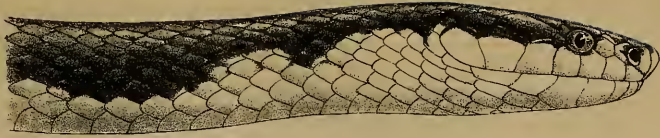
“This snake is common in the desert in Upper Sind. The large specimen is not supposed to be anything out of the way, as they are said to reach six feet commonly.\*

The natives call them “Pyân” (pronounced *pee-un*), meaning, “a drinker,” being the same as the word “to drink.” The snake is said to suck a man’s breath while he sleeps, the result being that he dies at sunrise with a swollen face, but no mark of a bite on him. The belief is entertained by all the natives here, educated or uneducated. No one will sleep on the ground in the desert at this time of the year [September] through fear of the “Pyân.”

“The snake lives at the roots of small bushes, some four feet or so down, and has frequently, so I am told, been found with the “junndi” (*Echis carinatus*) in its stomach. The natives admit that it *can* bite, if necessary, and fatally too, but it hardly ever does.”

---

\* The largest *Bungarus caeruleus* in the British Museum measures 1,080 millimetres (=3½ feet.)—G.A.B.



J. Green del. et lith.

Mintern Bros. imp. London.

BUNGARUS SINDANUS.  
*New Krait from Sind.*